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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): TRUSTEES OF TUFTS COLLEGE [US/US]; 136 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): VALLUZZI, Regina [US/US]; 448 Broadway, #2, Sommerville, MA 02145 (US). HAAS, Terry, E. [US/US]; 5 Clemmons Street, Southborough, MA 01772 (US). GUERTIN, Robert, P. [US/US]; 345 Commonweath Ave. #1, Boston, MA 02115 (US). HUANG, Jia [CN/US]; 63 Edward Street, Apt. 2, Medford, MA 02155 (US). JIN, Hyoung-Joon [KR/KR]; Yoenheedong 84-21, Seodaimoongu, Seoul (KR).
- (74) Agents: GORDON, Dana, M. et al.; Patent Group, Foley Hoag LLP, 155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, MA 02210-2698 (US).

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- (54) Title: METAL-CONTAINING NANOLAYERED COMPOSITES, AND APPLICATIONS THEREOF
- (57) Abstract: Disclosed are peptide-metal composite materials that comprise small linear polypeptides at least some of which feature rare-earth metals coordinated to acids or bases in their side chains. The resulting composites crystallize in smectic-like arrays over length scales much longer than those of the molecular dimensions. The resulting crystals (1-2 mg) were insulating and transparent in the visible spectrum. The rare earths form quasi-two dimensional sheets with a separation distance determined by the linear dimension of the oligopeptide. The magnetization, M(B,T), was determined down to 2 K and in fields to 5.5 T using SQUID magnetometry. All samples were paramagnetic. Crystalline electric field modification of the magnetization was evident in isothermal M(B) for dysprosium (Dy)-based composites.



